

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,126
Amendment filed February 27, 2006
Reply to OA dated November 29, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): An incubator comprising a chamber, the incubator being for
2 culturing samples on culture containers inside [[a]] the chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient
3 conditions, the incubator being characterized in that a culture container accommodating rack having
4 a plurality of culture container accommodating portions is disposed inside the chamber, a culture
5 container transport device being adapted to move the culture container into or out of a desired culture
6 container accommodating portion within the chamber, a camera being attached in the chamber and
7 facing a specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed, the sample on the
8 culture container being photographable by transporting the culture container to the specified position,
9 wherein the specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed is provided on
10 a particular accommodating portion of the accommodating rack to make it possible to photograph
11 the sample on the container accommodated into said accommodating portion.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): An incubator according to claim 2 for culturing samples on
2 culture containers inside a chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the incubator

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3 being characterized in that a culture container accommodating rack having a plurality of culture
4 container accommodating portions is disposed inside the chamber, a culture container transport
5 device being adapted to move the culture container into or out of a desired culture container
6 accommodating portion within the chamber, a camera being attached in the chamber and facing a
7 specified position wherein the culture container is to be photographed, the sample on the culture
8 container being photographable by transporting the culture container to the specified position,
9 wherein the camera is attached to an output end of a camera drive mechanism, and is driven into the
10 directions of two axes along a surface of the container.

1 Claims 4 and 5 (canceled).

1 Claim 6 (withdrawn): An incubator for culturing samples on culture containers inside a
2 chamber adjusted to predetermined ambient conditions, the incubator being characterized in that a
3 microscopic observation unit is housed in the chamber, the microscopic observation unit having a
4 microscopic observation device housed in a shield case with a closed construction, the shield case
5 having an observation window disposed on a position opposed to a culture container accommodated
6 in the chamber, the culture container being microscopic observable through the observation window
7 by the microscopic observation device.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/715,126**
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1 Claim 7 (withdrawn): An incubator according to claim 6 wherein the microscopic
2 observation unit comprises a drive device for moving the microscopic observation device, the drive
3 device and the microscopic observation device being housed in the shield case.

1 Claim 8 (withdrawn): An incubator according to claim 6 wherein a culture container
2 transport device for transporting the culture container, and stacker holders for arranging thereon
3 stackers having a plurality of culture container accommodating racks are arranged inside the
4 chamber, the microscopic observation unit having a contour wherein the observation unit can be
5 disposed on the stacker holder in place of the one or a plurality of stackers.

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